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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Fiji:* draft resolution

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa,[1] its resolution 53/92 of 7 December 1998 and subsequent annual resolutions, including resolutions 61/230 of 22 December 2006, 62/275 of 11 September 2008, 63/304 of 23 July 2009, 64/252 of 8 February 2010, 65/278 of 13 June 2011 and 66/287 of 23 July 2012, as well as its resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011 and 66/286 of 23 July 2012 on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 63/310 of 14 September 2009 and 65/274 of 18 April 2011 on cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1809 (2008) of 16 April 2008 on peace and security in Africa, 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security, 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on children and armed conflict, 1625 (2005) of 14 September 2005 on strengthening the effectiveness of the role of the Council in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa, and 1631 (2005) of 17 October 2005 and 2033 (2012) of 12 January 2012 on cooperation between the United Nations and

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

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regional and subregional organizations in maintaining international peace and security,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] through which world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa, and its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting on 22 September 2008,[3]

Recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[4]

Recognizing that development, peace, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012 and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[5]

Stressing that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries, while recognizing the need for the provision of support by the international community and the United Nations, taking into account the responsibilities of the United Nations in this regard according to the Charter of the United Nations, and at the request of countries concerned,

Recognizing, in particular, the importance of strengthening the capacity of the African Union and subregional organizations to address the causes of conflict in Africa,

Noting that, despite the positive trends and advances in obtaining durable peace in Africa, the conditions required for sustainable development have yet to be consolidated throughout the continent and that there is therefore an urgent need to continue developing African human and institutional capacities, particularly in countries emerging from conflict,

Expressing, in this context, concerns over the resurgence of coups d'état in a few African countries and their negative impact on the consolidation of peace and development,

Welcoming the continuing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to settle conflicts and promote human rights, democracy, the rule of law and constitutional order in Africa,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda,

Underlining the importance of enhancing national and regional initiatives, with international support, to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects for peace, security and development in Africa, and condemning the illicit trade in and proliferation of arms, especially small arms and light weapons,

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[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] See resolution 63/1.

[4] See resolution 65/1.

[5] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Acknowledging that the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations requires that national Governments and international partners continue to develop coordinated approaches tailored to the peacebuilding needs and challenges faced by those countries,

Reaffirming, in this regard, the importance of the Peacebuilding Commission as a dedicated mechanism to address, within its existing mandate and in an integrated manner, the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction and to assist them in laying the foundation for peace and sustainable development, taking into consideration national priorities and the principle of national ownership,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Office to the African Union in enhancing the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, particularly in the areas of peace, security and political and humanitarian affairs, and reaffirming the need to ensure coordination and increase cost-effectiveness among relevant entities of the United Nations system involved in the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa;[6]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries, the African Union and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development, and calls for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach among national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners in addressing the existing challenges and those still ahead with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa;

3. *Also welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union and subregional organizations to strengthen their peacekeeping capacity and to take the lead in peacekeeping operations on the continent, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in close coordination with the United Nations, through the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as ongoing efforts to develop a continental early warning system, response capacity, such as the African Standby Force, and enhanced mediation capacity, including through the Panel of the Wise;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, including the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework and the continental early warning system, including its subregional components, as well as the operationalization of the African Standby Force;

5. *Recognizes* the important contribution by the African Peer Review Mechanism since its inception in improving governance and supporting socioeconomic development in African countries, and invites the international community to support the efforts of African countries, at their request, to implement

[6] A/67/205-S/2012/715.

the respective national programmes of action arising from the African Peer Review Mechanism process;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to assist post-conflict countries, at their request, in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development and to support relevant United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission;

7. *Also calls upon* the United Nation system, the international community and all partners to support the efforts of African countries, at their request, towards promoting political, social and economic inclusion;

8. *Stresses* the importance of creating an environment conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict;

9. *Invites* the United Nations and the donor community to increase efforts to support ongoing regional efforts to build African mediation and negotiation capacity;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to support the African Union in its effort to effectively integrate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with particular emphasis on the rights of women and children, into the training of civilian and military personnel of national standby contingents at both the operational and tactical levels, as set out in article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

11. *Recognizes* that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and the human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level;

12. *Recalls* the signing of the declaration on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in Addis Ababa on 16 November 2006[7] and the ongoing efforts in this regard, takes note with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union[8] and underlines the importance of accelerating the implementation of the programme, urges all stakeholders to support the full implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme in all its aspects, in particular the operationalization of the African Standby Force, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress achieved in this regard;

13. *Stresses* the critical importance of a regional approach to conflict prevention, in particular with respect to cross-border issues such as transnational organized crime, disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programmes, the prevention of illegal exploitation of natural resources and trafficking in high-value commodities and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and emphasizes in this regard the central role of the African Union and subregional organizations in addressing such issues;

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[7] A/61/630, annex.

[8] A/65/716-S/2011/54.

14. *Notes with concern* that violence against women and children continues and often increases, even as armed conflicts draw to an end, urges further progress in the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the protection of and assistance to women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa, notes the adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of relevant resolutions, and encourages the entities which compose United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as other relevant parts of the United Nations system, to implement the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in Africa;

15. *Also notes with concern* the tragic plight of children in conflict situations in Africa, in particular the phenomenon of child soldiers, as well as other grave violations against children, and stresses the need for the protection of children in armed conflicts, post-conflict counselling, rehabilitation and education, with due regard for the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

16. *Stresses* the importance of addressing the socioeconomic dimension of youth unemployment, as well as facilitating the enhanced participation of youth in decision-making processes, with a view to addressing social, political and economic challenges;

17. *Calls for* the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, consistent with relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security, and calls upon Member States in this context to support the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010;

18. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the African Union to ensure the protection of the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, recalls in this regard the adoption and entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004) and the African Union Gender Policy (2009), as well as the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development (2008), stresses the significance of those instruments for all countries in Africa in strengthening the role of women in peace and conflict prevention on the continent, and strongly urges the United Nations and all parties to redouble their efforts and support in this regard;

19. *Takes note* of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (2009), which entered into force on 6 December 2012, and the Kampala Declaration on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, adopted on 23 October 2009;

20. *Calls for* the safeguarding of the principle of refugee protection in Africa and the resolution of the plight of refugees, including through support for efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement and bringing about the voluntary, dignified, safe and sustainable return and reintegration of those populations, and calls upon the international community, including States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete

action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

21. *Welcomes* African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the African Peer Review Mechanism, and encourages even more African countries to participate in this process, and calls upon the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries and regional and subregional organizations in their ongoing efforts to promote constitutional order and the rule of law, enhance good governance and continue to fight against impunity, and in the holding of free, fair, inclusive and transparent elections;

22. *Recognizes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in ensuring that national ownership of the peacebuilding process in countries emerging from conflict is observed and that nationally identified priorities are at the core of international and regional efforts in post-conflict peacebuilding in the countries under consideration, notes the important steps taken by the Commission in engaging with Sierra Leone, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic through integrated peacebuilding strategies and with Liberia and Guinea through statements of mutual commitments for peacebuilding, and calls for sustained regional and international commitment to the implementation of those strategies and mutual commitments;

23. *Stresses* the importance of effectively addressing the challenges that continue to hamper the achievement of peace, stability and sustainable development on the continent, and encourages the United Nations system and Member States to assist African countries in effectively addressing these challenges;

24. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and invites Member States to assist African countries emerging from conflict in their efforts to build national capacities, including through national security sector reform strategies, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, provision for the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, the launch of income-generation activities, particularly for youth and women, and the delivery of basic public services;

25. *Urges* continued support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and hunger, job creation and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

26. *Recalls* its resolution 66/293 of 17 September 2012 in which it established a monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development, and looks forward to the first biennial report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

27. *Recognizes* that more attention should be given to Africa and to the implementation of previously agreed commitments related to its development needs that were made at major United Nations summits and conferences, notes that while aid to Africa has increased in recent years, it still lags behind commitments that

were previously made, and in this regard underscores the key priority for the international community to support Africa's sustainable development efforts, stresses the need to fully implement the internationally agreed commitments related to Africa's development needs, particularly those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[9] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[10] the Monterrey Consensus,[11] the Plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[12] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2] as well as the 2008 political declaration on Africa's development needs;[13]

28. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support and fulfil its commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa's sustainable development, recognizes the need for African countries to make continued efforts to create enabling environments for inclusive growth in support of sustainable development and for the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support those development efforts by African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives between African countries and their development partners established in this regard;

29. *Also calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States, bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as new partners, to deliver expeditiously on commitments and to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the provisions of the political declaration on Africa's development needs, as well as the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[14]

30. *Stresses* the need to promote socioeconomic development on the continent, and in this context takes note of the Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, adopted by the African Union in 2004, as well as the recommendations of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, which were endorsed by the African Union in July 2008 and cover such critical areas as agriculture and food security, education, health, infrastructure and trade facilitation and the national statistical system;

31. *Encourages* African Governments to strengthen structures and policies to create an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment and promote socioeconomic development and social justice, calls upon African Member States and regional and subregional organizations to assist the African countries concerned, at their request, by enhancing their capacity to devise and improve their national natural resources and public revenue management structures, and in this regard invites the international community to assist in that process by providing adequate financial and technical assistance, as well as by renewing its commitment

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[9] See resolution 55/2.

[10] See resolution 57/2.

[11] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[12] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[13] See resolution 63/1.

[14] A/57/304, annex.

to efforts aimed at combating the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of those countries in conformity with international law;

32. *Recalls* relevant resolutions on the strengthening of cooperation and communication between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations or arrangements, and encourages coordination and cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and regional economic communities in advocacy and in the mobilization of the support of the international community to African countries and towards the priorities of their continental and regional institutions;

33. *Notes* the completion of the review of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General,[15] and requests the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with relevant partners, policy proposals on issues identified in his report;

34. *Takes note* of the decision of the Secretary-General to implement the relevant General Assembly resolutions by maintaining the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa as a separate and independent office within the United Nations Secretariat and by appointing a new Under-Secretary-General as his Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office in order to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa, and to ensure further coherence and an integrated approach for United Nations support for Africa, including in following up on the implementation of all global summit and conference outcomes related to Africa;

35. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report to the General Assembly on an annual basis on persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as on the approach and support of the United Nations system.

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[15] A/52/871-S/1998/318.